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File: USPT

Feb 24, 2004

US-PAT-NO: 6697719

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6697719 B2

TITLE: Programmable electronic device

DATE-ISSUED: February 24, 2004

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US-CL-CURRENT: 701/36

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle control system, comprising: an interface module for interfacing electronic input and output devices of a vehicle, wherein the electronic input and output devices are operated pursuant to a feature set of electronically operable functions; and a detachable feature set module for detachably coupling to said interface module, wherein said detachable feature set module contains stored codes defining the feature set of electronically operable functions, wherein the electronic input and output devices of the vehicle are operated pursuant to the feature set of electronically operable functions defined by the stored codes when the detachable feature set module is coupled to the interface module.
2. The vehicle control system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic input and output device includes circuitry for automatically starting a vehicle.
3. The vehicle control system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic input and output device includes circuitry for activating a siren.
4. The vehicle control system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic input and output device includes circuitry for activating motion detector circuitry.
5. The vehicle control system according to claim 1, wherein said programming is software

stored on a non-volatile memory device.

6. The vehicle control system according to claim 1, wherein said programming is downloaded onto the feature set module.

7. The vehicle control system according to claim 5, wherein said non-volatile memory device is an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory device.

8. The vehicle control system according to claim 6, wherein said programming is downloaded onto the feature set module using an Internet.

9. The vehicle control system according to claim 6, wherein said programming is downloaded onto the feature set module using a computer.

10. A method of modifying electronically operable functions of a vehicle control system comprising steps of: defining a first feature set of electronically operable functions of a vehicle by stored codes in a first feature set module; and replacing said first feature set module with a second feature set module comprising stored codes defining a second feature set of electronically operable functions of the vehicle.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said replacing step further comprises: detaching said first feature set module from an interface of said vehicle control system; and reprogramming said first feature set module to produce said second feature set module.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein said reprogramming is accomplished by downloading a new program over an Internet.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein said reprogramming is accomplished by downloading a new program using a personal computer.

14. The method according to claim 11, wherein said reprogramming is accomplished using a cell phone.

15. The method according to claim 11, wherein said reprogramming is accomplished using telematics.

16. The method according to claim 11, wherein said reprogramming is accomplished by downloading a new program over a network.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein said network is a wireless network.

18. The vehicle control system according to claim 1, wherein said electronic input and output device includes circuitry for activating a sound alarm.

19. The vehicle control system according to claim 18, wherein said sound alarm emanates from a horn.

20. The vehicle control system according to claim 18, wherein said sound alarm is progressive in duration.

21. The vehicle control system of claim 1, wherein the detachable feature set module comprises a quick attachment, wherein the quick attachment comprises a locking member fitting into a mating member of the interface module.

22. The vehicle control system of claim 21, wherein the mating member is a cavity member.

23. The vehicle control system of claim 1, wherein the detachable feature set module comprises a quick attachment means for detachably coupling with the interface.

24. The method of claim 10, wherein removing the first feature set module further comprises freeing a locking member of the first feature set module from a mating member of the alarm system.

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